

REMARKS

Claims 2-8 have been amended, and claims 1 and 9 cancelled to improve the clarity of the claimed subject matter and to bring the claims into conformity with U.S. practice and format, and to place the application fully in condition for allowance. The original Abstract has been amended to provide a more concise summary of the disclosure in accordance with U.S. practice format.

Applicant has not yet received an indication from the Examiner as to the acceptability of the originally filed drawings and requests such indication in the next Official Action, in the absence of which it is assumed that the original drawings are acceptable.

Claims 2-8 remain pending upon entry of the amendments to the claims above.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 2-8 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, claim 2 has been rewritten as an independent claim, incorporating all of the elements of claim 1. Claims 3-8 invariably depend from claim 2, and are therefore believed to be allowable as well. The claims have been amended to place same more in accord with U.S. practice and format. It is believed that no new matter has been entered.

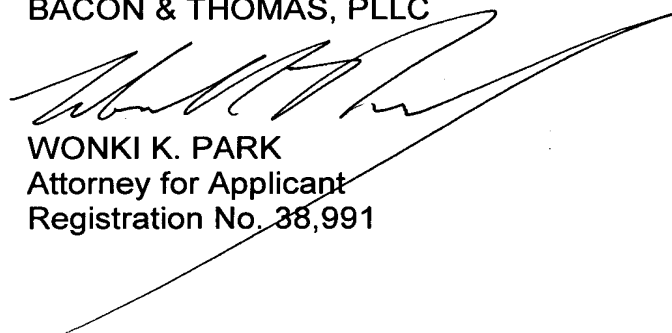
Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1 and 9 are rejected under 35 USC 102. Claims 1 and 9 have been canceled.

Application No.: 10/630,745
Amendment dated: October 12, 2004
Reply to Office Action of: June 9, 2004

In summary, it is respectfully submitted that none of the prior art individually or collectively shows the invention as claimed. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of the claims appears to be warranted and the same is respectfully requested. In the event there are any outstanding matters remaining in the present application which can be resolved by a telephone call or facsimile communication to Applicant's Attorney, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone or facsimile at the numbers provided below.

Respectfully submitted,
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